

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 wherein said reducing means is selected from the group consisting of folding, nesting and rolling.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, formed on at least one two-dimensional carrier wherein the carrier has at least two regions that are movable relative to one another, wherein said microcontact structure has a spatial extent and wherein said spatial extent is capable of being reduced by a reducing means prior to surgical transportation to an implant point, said reducing means comprising a compacting means for compacting the regions that are movable relative to one another; and wherein said spatial extent is capable of being restored by a releasing means;

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention; and,

~~a releasing means wherein said compacting can be released by said releasing means after the surgical transportation.~~

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 wherein said compacting places the microcontact structure in a compact state, and said

microcontact structure further comprises a locking means for locking said microcontact structure in the compact state.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 6 wherein said carrier comprises further comprising two contiguous regions, and at least one junction area between said contiguous regions and wherein said microcontact structure further comprises a lock releasing means, said lock releasing means permitting releasing forces an opening means at said at least one junction to thereby open the microcontact structure out of the compact state.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 7 wherein the releasing forces are said opening means is selected from the group consisting of spring forces, molecular conformation changes, pneumatic forces, hydraulic forces and electromagnetic forces.

Claims 9-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and  
a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention;

wherein the shape modifying means is utilized to attain a mechanical anchorage and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of the external action; and,

wherein said shape modifying means is selected from the group consisting of a surgical device means and a transmitting means for transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention;

wherein said shape modifying means is utilized to improve an electrical contact or an active connection with nerve tissue and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of an external action; and,

~~wherein said shape modifying means is selected from the group consisting of a surgical device means and a transmitting means for transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.~~

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 11 wherein said shape modifying means comprises a means for responding to a signal transmitted to the microcontact structure, the signals are being selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 12 wherein said shape modifying means comprises a means for responding to a signal transmitted to the microcontact structure, the signals are being selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Method for using the microcontact structure according to claim 12 in a surgical procedure, said procedure selected from the group consisting of retinal implantation for a retina implant, intracranial implantation on nerve tissue inside the skull, spinal implantation on nerve tissue of the spinal cord and its surroundings, and implantation on peripheral nerves; said method comprising the step of surgically implanting said microcontact structure.